

No. 703305-3463

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Attorney Docket J646-005 US

MARKED VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN APP. NO. 09/672,726

--1. (Amended) A thermocycler having a heating plate (1) which forms a heating surface (3) for holding a microtitre plate (13) whose wells (15) are held in indentations (4) provided in the heating surface (3), and have a cover (14) which can be lowered and raised relative to the heating surface (3), characterized in that, said cover serving for pressing the microtitre plate against the heating surface, wherein a plurality of elastically compressible lifting elements (7) which, at least when the cover (14) is raised, project beyond the edges of the indentations (4) for rising and detaching of the microtitre plate from the heating surface are distributed over the heating surface (3).

*Said lifting elements (7) project beyond the edges of the indentations (4) at least when the cover is raised.*

2. (Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the projection of the lifting elements (7) is at least 2 mm, preferably at least

5 mm.

3. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the density of the lifting elements (7) is at least 1 per 30 cm<sup>2</sup>.

4. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein each lifting element (7) is removably fixed to the heating surface (3).

5. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein each lifting element (7) is inserted into a blind hole (6) in the heating surface (3).

(filed  
2/4/03 aff)